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I Want To Make a Quilt

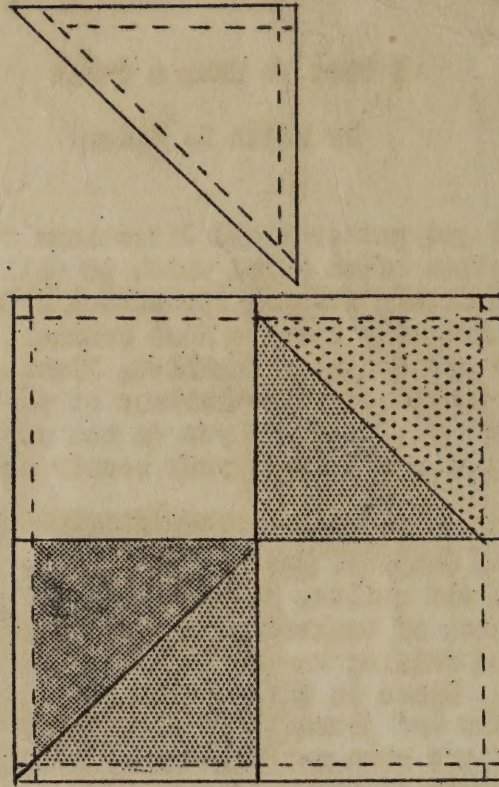
By Edith L. Allen

"When can I get patterns and directions for making pieced quilts?" is a question often asked which we will answer briefly. Some of the farm journals such as Successful Farming, published in Des Moines, Iowa, Kentucky Farmers Home Journal, Louisville, Ky., Progressive Farmer and Southern Ruralist, Birmingham, Ala., from time to time have published illustrations of patterns and brief instructions for making quilts. If you do not subscribe to these papers, perhaps you can get them at your county or local library.

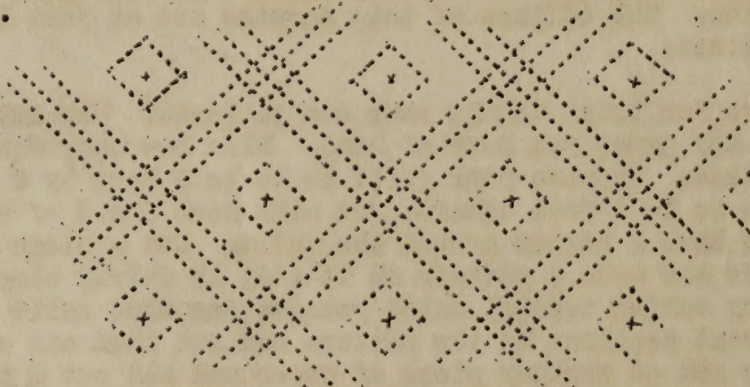
The book, Historic Quilts, by Florence Peto, published by the American Historical Company, New York City, contains many illustrations of beautiful old quilts. This book contains 210 pages. The United States Catalog of books contains a number of titles on quilts and quilting. This catalog may be found for reference in libraries or at book stores. Space in this article does not permit giving a longer list of books and journals, but no discrimination is intended if the names of others have not been mentioned, nor can we guarantee the reliability of any of those named.

If there is a home demonstration agent in your county, have you told her of your interest in making quilts? She may have some material that will help you or she can get it from your State extension service. The offices of this service are at your State college of agriculture.

Have you tried making your own patterns? Why not? It is great fun. Use any paper you have at hand. Plan how many squares or "blocks" you will need. Suppose your quilt is to be 5 feet by 8 feet and the blocks are to be 1 foot square, you will need 5 x 8 or 40 blocks, if you do not have a border around the quilt. Cut a piece of paper 1 foot square and make a pattern on it that is fairly simple. You may have to try making several until you get one that suits you. Color the different sections in the pattern and cut them out carefully. Lay each piece out on another piece of paper and cut out a pattern enough larger to make a narrow seam. Fold the paper along the places where the seam should be and see if the pieces fit together properly. When they do, they are ready to use as patterns for cutting the cloth. Each pattern piece is laid flat on the cloth which must be cut very accurately. After cutting the cloth pieces for one block, sew them together carefully and press the block to see that it makes a smooth flat square. Other blocks may then be made of this pattern or other patterns, and then the blocks are carefully sewed together to make a piece the size of the top of the quilt.



When ready to put the quilt together, lay the cotton smoothly on the back cover and pin the top cover over it. Plan the design for quilting. This may be a series of diamonds or circles or something more involved.



Follow this design with small stitches through both the top and bottom, thus holding the cotton layers between firmly in place. When the quilting is done, bind or hem the edges neatly. A quilting frame aids in the making of a quilt. It consists of two long poles to which the ends of the under cover of the quilt are fastened. On these the quilt is rolled.